



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 22 February 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
22 FEBRUARY 1967

1. Indonesia

Djakarta radio announced this morning that Sukarno had stepped down as of Monday and turned over all powers to General Suharto. So far, we have only the bare bones on this, but it does appear to be a bona fide capitulation.

In any case, with Sukarno's record for bouncing back, it is still too early finally to count him out. There is even a slim possibility that some of his supporters might now try to use force to keep him on.

2. South Vietnam

[redacted] the constituent assembly [redacted] vote on presidential age--he must be at least 35--amounts to an endorsement of Ky's candidacy. [redacted] a majority had favored 40 as the minimum age, but [redacted] Ky had changed some minds by a series of "very clever" informal meetings. [redacted]

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Our embassy, however, interprets the vote as the assembly's decision to let the army choose between Ky and Thieu. In a press interview today, Ky reversed himself for about the umpteenth time and said he would not be a candidate.

3. Communist China

Peking's weather vane continues to move toward moderation in the "cultural revolution." One major factor seems to be a real concern about disruption of the economy--particularly now that spring planting is about to begin. On Monday the Central Committee, in effect, started telling the peasants and rural work team bosses to shelve the revolution for the time being and get back into the fields.

4. Congo

Elements of the Congolese and Burundi armies pulled off a successful joint operation against Congolese rebels in the border area earlier this week.

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5. France

It looks now as if the Gaullist majority will be considerably reduced after the legislative elections next month. Recent polls show a 4.5 percent drop in the popularity of the Gaullist candidates over a two-week period; they also indicate a continuing high percentage of undecided voters.

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